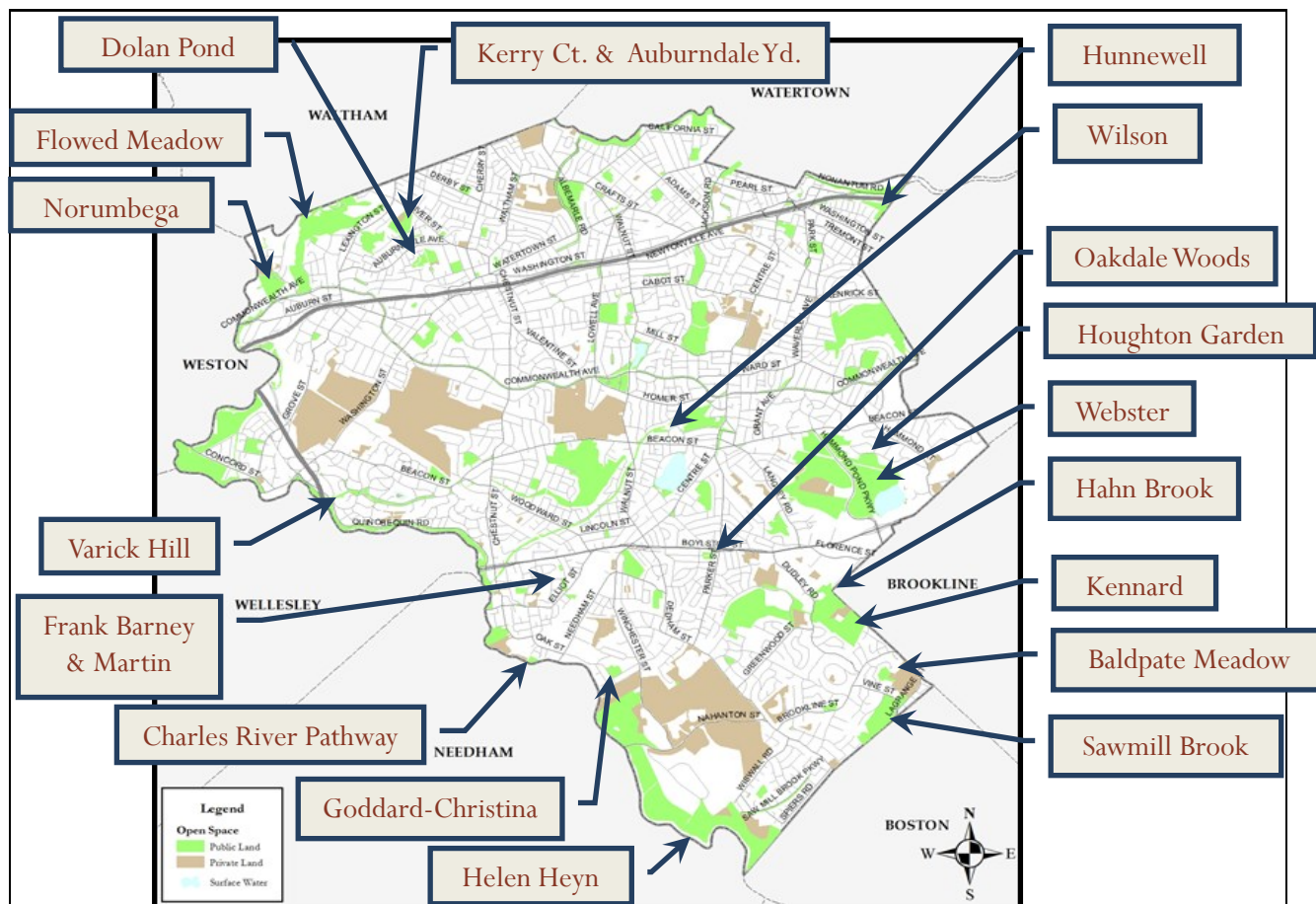


NEWTON'S CONSERVATION AREAS



DID YOU KNOW?

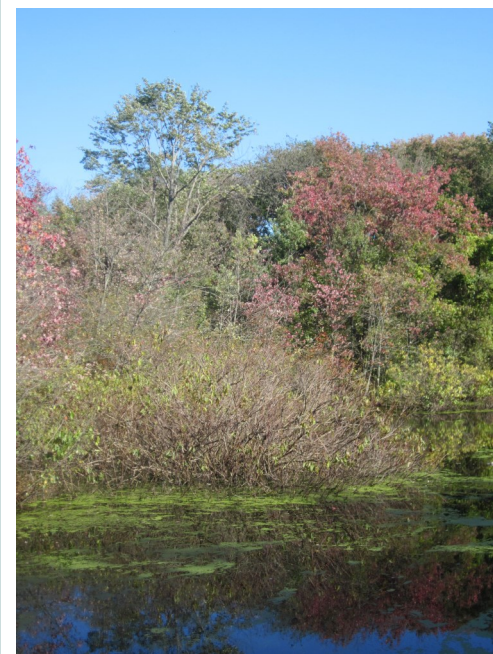
- Newton Conservation Commission owns 20 parcels, totaling over 280 acres of woods, ponds, & marshes.
- 14 of these parcels have trails and are available for walking and other passive recreation activities.
- Leashed dogs are welcome on conservation parcels.
- Volunteer stewards help care for these parcels.



CITY OF NEWTON
Department of Planning

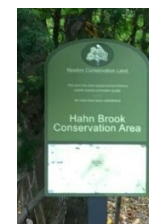
For more information:
Phone: 617.796.1120
Fax: 617.796.1086
City website: www.ci.newton.ma.us

Conservation Land in Newton



CITY OF NEWTON

Department of Planning and Development



Conservation Land in Newton

WHAT IS “CONSERVATION LAND”?

The City of Newton, through its Conservation Commission, owns 20 parcels of land (over 280 acres) for its passive recreation and ecological value. This is what is referred to as “Conservation Land”

Other major “open space” owners in Newton include the Parks and Recreation Commission (510 acres), the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (330 acres), and public and private golf courses (660 acres).

Some people refer to the public or private wetlands and their buffer zones that are under the regulatory authority of the Conservation Commission as “conservation land”, but that is really a misnomer.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF CONSERVATION LAND?

Newton’s Conservation lands provide or many values, including:

- Water quality — Natural areas act as filters, cleaning stormwater runoff.
- Wildlife habitat — Native creatures rely on large areas of healthy and diverse ecology to breed, nest, feed, shelter, or hibernate.
- Passive recreation and quality of life — In these parcels, you can find babbling streams, bird-filled marshes, and dense forests. There are miles of trails to walk for exercise, or simply discover tranquility in the midst of the city. Lose yourself in nature!

WHAT BIG PROJECTS ARE PLANNED?

Priorities for 2016 and 2017 include:

- Invasives removal, bank stabilization, and trail improvements at Norumbega
- Boardwalks at Houghton Garden
- Invasives removal at Kennard
- Access improvements at Charles River Path
- General improvements at Sawmill Brook



WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE ALLOWED AND WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED?

Passive activities such as walking, jogging, and photography are encouraged. Walking with leashed dogs is allowed as long as pet waste is carried out. Picnicking (without a trace) is allowed. Please adhere to our policy of:

CARRY IN— CARRY OUT.

Explore the beauty and wonder of these areas. We particularly encourage children to get out and explore their natural surroundings, learn about nature’s systems, and understand how we all need to be stewards of these precious resources.

Dogs off-leash, fires, cutting vegetation, digging, and other land disturbing activities are not allowed. Violators may be fined.

WHO CARES FOR THESE LANDS

The Conservation Commission is fortunate to have several sources of assistance in its land management efforts, including:

- An annual maintenance contractor who performs routine trail-head and trail maintenance, and special project contractors who undertake large or challenging projects.
- Volunteer Stewards who watch over and help care for individual parcels.
- Eagle Scouts who undertake improvement projects.
- Newton Conservators who contribute to community improvement projects such as invasive species pulls.
- Other “friends of” groups who contribute energy, inspiration, and assistance in a variety of projects.



WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

- Walk the parcels — the more the trails are used, the more “self-sustaining” they are.
- Report any problems (or opportunities) to the Conservation Office (617-796-1134 or jsteel@newtonma.gov).
- Join in community improvement projects such as NewtonServes day or the Newton Conservators invasive plant pulls.